



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	S.W. Mt. Shasta Fuel Reduction Project Phase II		
	1 mile south of Mount Shasta City.		
PROJECT LOCATION	Legal Description: Section 27 & 34, T40N, R4W, MDBM	COUNTY	Siskiyou
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Mike Rosan, Forester I,	PHONE	Off 530-842-3516
ADDRESS	CALFIRE Siskiyou Unit HQ (SKU) 1809 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097		Cell 530-598-2607

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of four separate units. The Big Canyon Unit (35 acres), the Cantara East Unit (17 acres), the Cantara Unit (19 acres), and the Remour Unit (8 acres).

The Big Canyon Unit is characterized by recent residential development which contains roads and utilities throughout the entire unit. The northern 1/3 of the unit contains existing residences, but residences do not presently exist within the southern 2/3 of the unit. The project area is also characterized by gentle to moderate topography and dense brush with highly scattered conifer trees throughout. A majority of the vegetation within the project area is composed mature manzanita 8 to 10 feet in height.

The fuels reduction treatment within the northern portion of the Big Canyon Unit will consist of brush clearing within 100 feet of residential structures. Hand crews will be utilized to cut and chip or cut, pile and burn. The southern portion of the unit, which does not contain houses, will be treated with a mechanical masticator. A majority of the brush will be removed, but scattered shrubs and all trees will be retained for aesthetic value.

The Cantara East Unit, as well as the surrounding area is a rural residential development characterized by gentle topography and a mature, mixed conifer stand with light to moderate amounts of brush in the understory. This unit also contains a Class III watercourse in the northern portion of the unit.

The fuels reduction treatment in this area will concentrate on brush removal and understory thinning within 100 feet of residences. Treatment may also include treating the entire area, beyond 100 feet of residences, to create a shaded fuelbreak along the eastern boundary of the unit. The treatment area will include the Class III watercourse located in the northern portion of the unit. This treatment entails removing all understory brush, thinning and pruning understory trees 8 inches in DBH and less. Hand crews will be utilized to cut pile and burn or chip brush. Treatment shall not be conducted within the watercourse channel, and a majority of the shade canopy shall be maintained.

The Cantara Unit, as well as the surrounding area is characterized by moderate to excessive topography and a mature, mixed conifer stand with light to moderate amounts of brush in the understory.

The fuels reduction treatment in this area will create a shaded fuelbreak. Brush removal and understory thinning within 100 feet of each side of the Cantara Loop Road will occur. Treatment will be conducted as a means to create a safe escape route for residences and an anchor point for fire suppression activities.

This treatment will entail removing all understory brush, thinning and pruning understory trees 8 inches in DBH and less. Hand crews will be utilized to cut pile and burn or chip brush.

The Remour Unit as well as the surrounding area is characterized by rural residential development, flat topography and meadow interspersed by brush species and mixed conifer species occurring individually and in small groups throughout.

The fuels reduction treatment in this area will be concentrated on brush removal and understory thinning within 100 feet of residences. The fuels reduction treatment will also be conducted to create a shaded fuelbreak in which brush removal and understory thinning shall be conducted within 100 feet of each side of Remour Road. Treatment will be conducted as a means to create a safe escape route for residences.



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This treatment will entail removing all understory brush, thinning and pruning understory trees 8 inches in DBH and less. Hand crews will be utilized to cut pile and burn or chip brush.

EXEMPTION STATUS

☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: **Class 4**

Pursuant to §15304, minor alterations of vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The work proposed is a minor alteration to vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and is consistent with Categorical Exemption Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CALFIRE Siskiyou Unit Headquarters in Yreka, Attention Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

 12/6/12
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

RECEIVED

DEC 10 2012

STATE CLEARING HOUSE